Distribution of Telephone Directory

1470. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jharkhand Telephone Directory has not been distributed in Bokaro since 2003;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when these are expected to be distributed to the subscribers at the earliest;

(c) when was the Jharkhand Telephone Directory last distributed in Bokaro; and

(d) whether it has been examined to include the telephone number of other telecom service providers in this directory and whether TRAI would make it mandatory for these service providers to include their number as the public is put to immense difficulties with the listings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the directory printing tender floated in December, 2003, no bids were received. Another tender has been floated in August, 2004 and new telephone directory is expected to be available by June, 2005.

(c) The directory is printed SSA-wise and not circle-wise. However, the last telephone directory of Dhanbad Telecom. District was distributed in Bokaro in the year 2001.

(d) Yes, Sir. The case has been examined and it has not been found feasible to include the telephone number of other telecom service providers in this directory. So far TRAI has not made any recommendation in this regard.

Telephone connection to Gram Sabha

1471. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such Gram Sabhas in the country where telephones are functioning and the number of such Gram Sabhas which have applied for the telephones, State-wise;